



WILLIAM CUMMINGS

Son of John Cummings and Rachel Kennedy. Born July 30, 1836, in Gibson County, Tenn. Indian War. Said to have been first settler to have plowed first ground in Provo Valley, Utah.

CUMMINGS, WILLIAM (son of John Cummings and Rachel Kennedy). Born July 30, 1836, in Gibson county, Tenn. Married Mary Annie Meeks Oct. 3, 1861, Provo, Utah (daughter of William Meeks and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes). who was born Nov. 22, 1814, Nauvoo, Ill. Their children: William C. b. Sept. 29, 1862, m. Jane Whatcott 1881; Mary Elizabeth b. Dec. 20, 1864, m. Thomas Gardner 1882; John b. Jan. 26, 1867, and Rachel b. June 9, 1869, died; Nancy Jane b. Sept. 2, 1871, m. William Winters 1896; Ada Evaline b. May 26, 1874, m. Charles Whitaker 1898; Sarah Ann b. Oct. 16, 1876, m. Charles George 1898; Mary Ann b. April 8, 1879, died; Harvey b. Nov. 12, 1881, m. Ida Bird 1902; Isaac b. May 26, 1884; Eva b. March 16, 1887, m. Stanley Johnson 1907. Family home Kanosh, Utah. First settler in Provo valley, where he ploughed the first ground. Black Hawk and Walker Indian war veteran. Assisted to bring immigrants to Utah.

J. H.

# FIRST SETTLERS OF HEBER VALLEY

J. M. T.

On May 1, 1839, snow lay deep on parts of Heber Valley, ice covered the streams—not an encouraging prospect for pioneers who were planning a permanent settlement. However, the eleven men who made up, what they thought, was the first company to enter Heber Valley were not the kind to easily accept defeat.

After an overnight rest in the southern end of the valley, morning saw them proceeding northward on foot toward the proposed townsite.

In the not to far distance something in the sagebrush seemed to be moving back and forth, back and forth. Of a certainty it must be animals. Approaching cautiously they were most happy to find friends—white men and teams of oxen. The men had their oxen yoked to plows and were breaking ground. It must have been a bit of a let-down to find that others had beat them to a goal they had tried so desperately to achieve.

Robert Broadhead with two ox teams and James Davis also with two yokes had each plowed about one acre of land. Mr. Davis had sowed wheat in his section and a boy was harrowing. These men had come in from Nephi, a town farther south. By three days they had preceded the company of eleven men.

From Robert Broadhead and James Davis it was learned that other valley ground had been broken prior to the coming of the larger company. William Cummings and Robert Parker were putting in crops on Center Creek.

WILLIAM CUMMINGS AND  
MARY ANN MEEKS  
CUMMINGS



William Cummings, born July 30, 1835, in Gibson County, Tennessee, son of John and Rachel Canarda Cummings. William married Mary Ann Meeks (born November 23, 1844, daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes Meeks) October 23, 1861, at Provo, Utah. Died January 28, 1922, at Kanosh, Utah.

William Cummings was the son of John and Rachel Canarda Cummings, born in Gibson County, Tennessee, July 30, 1835. He came to Utah with his parents in the John Maxwell company.

In the fall of 1857 William went up the Provo River with Joseph Parker, where they were trapping beaver, and came into the Provo Valley. They stayed there all winter and trapped. In the spring they built four cabins. That summer William Cum-

323

mings, Joseph Parker, Andrew Ross, William Meeks, and William Wall brought their livestock into the valley and wintered them on Meek's Bottom.

During the winter of 1859-60 these men moved to Center Creek and built a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon. William Cummings plowed the first ground in this valley. In 1860, 17 families moved to Provo Valley, among them being the parents of William and John Cummings.

William joined in the Black Hawk War. He had learned to talk with the Indians and acted as an interpreter. Chief Tabby, with a group of Indians, called at his home and demanded he make a treaty. He took the Indians to an official who was plowing a field and there a final treaty was made. This ended the Indian troubles around Heber.

William Cummings married Mary Ann Meeks, daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes Meeks, October 23, 1861, at Provo, Utah. She was born November 23, 1844.

To them were born the following children: William, Mary Elizabeth, John, Rachel, Nancy Jane, Ada Eveline, Sarah Ann, Mary Ann, Harvey, Isaac, and Eva.

The William Cummings family and Andrew, Thomas and Robert Ross moved to southern Utah and settled at Corn Creek, which was later named Kanosh. William Cummings died January 28, 1922, at Kanosh, Utah.

(Taken from history of Eva Cummings Johnson and "History Book of the Early Utah Pioneers.")